

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Jazz band takes center stage at Crean Lutheran festival

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Members of the Crean Lutheran High School jazz band clustered around a table of catered Chipotle fueling up for their first Jazz Fest, held in the Worship Center at Concordia University.

"I'm nervous but pretty excited," said junior **Sterling Treloar**, a baritone and alto saxophone player. "We've been practicing so much, but it's our first time playing in a real venue made for music."

The Jazz Fest also marks the first time in the history of Crean Lutheran High School that the jazz band has hosted a concert on its own, without another ensemble sharing the stage. It usually plays in the school's gymnasium, alongside the orchestra and choir.

Though the concert was hosted by Concordia assistant professor of church music **Tom Mueller**, jazz band director **Paul von Kampen** stood on stage with the performers and introduced each song.

Almost every band member had a solo, said von Kampen. During "Besame Mucho" many of them walked to the microphone to play alone, weaving around the music stands as if performing a well-rehearsed dance.

"We've never tried this before so soon in the school year," said von Kampen. "I'm real proud of these kids and all the work they've put in." Von Kampen is in his fifth year as the school's music director.

"We sometimes have to audition for solos, but otherwise it can just be who sounds good or whoever volunteers," said Treloar. "Mr. von Kampen is really open to people trying out new parts."

The star soloist, senior **Nathan Browne**, played a holiday medley that he arranged himself, aptly titled "A Charlie Nathan Brown(e) Christmas."

"When you have someone who has put in as much hard work as he has, we really want to honor that," said von Kampen. "That's part of the reason we wanted to have this concert just with the jazz band."

Senior baritone **Riley Evans** sang along to the "What a Wonderful World" section of the arrangement.

The clear favorite among the crowd and the band was the finale of "Africa" by David Paich and Jeff Porcaro.

"It's really loud and proud with the bass and all the brass," said pianist **John Kim**, a sophomore. "I think it really shows who we are as a jazz band."

Freshman **Devin Foy**, who plays trumpet, agreed that it was the favorite song for the whole band but said it was also the hardest to play for many.

"For me, it's especially difficult because the notes are so much higher," said Foy. "You have to position your mouth differently on the mouthpiece and blow out faster, so it's easy to lose your breath."

The Jazz Fest was Foy's first time performing with the jazz band.

"I had never done jazz band before but I always listen to jazz music, so when I got to high school, I thought I

would try it," said Foy. "I like it a lot."

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